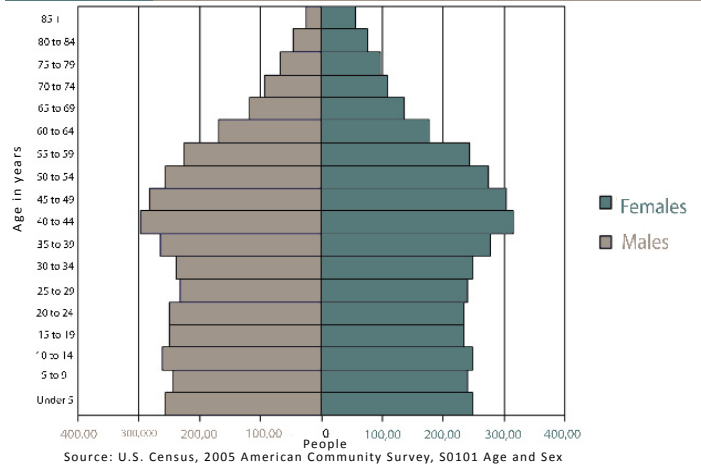


What are the sociodemographic characteristics of the general population in Virginia?

Population Growth Trends

Virginia is a medium sized south-eastern state that consists of 95 counties and 39 independent cities. The population in Virginia reached 7.5 million in 2005, accounting for 2.5 % of the nation's then total of 296 million (Demographics & Workforce, 2007). In 2006, the U.S. Census estimated Virginia's population to be 7,642,884 (Census, 2006). Virginia's population growth rate exceeds the national growth rate, but lags behind its bordering neighbors of Maryland, West Virginia, and the District of Columbia. Over the last five years, 65% of the population growth occurred in the booming northern Virginia counties outside of Washington D.C., commonly referred to as Northern Virginia. During the years 2000 – 2005, the number of Virginians increased by nearly one-half million (Cai & Spar, 2006). Migrants from other states or localities account for 53% of the population growth during that five year period. The top ten "sending" states are (in descending order): Maryland, New York, California, North Carolina, Florida, Pennsylvania, Texas, New Jersey, Georgia, and Washington D.C. (Cai & Murray-Krezan, 2006).

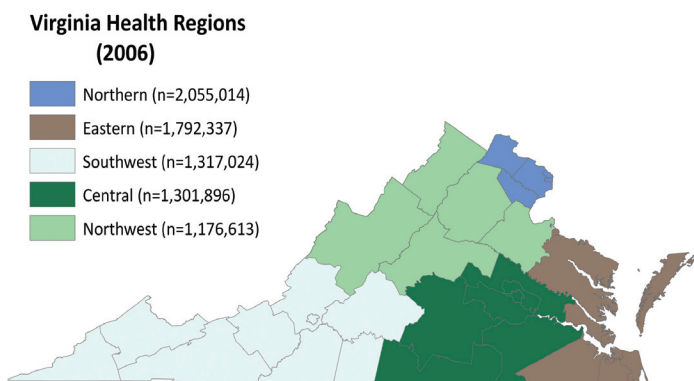
Figure 2 Population pyramid of age and gender Virginia (2005)



Age

The age distribution in Virginia mirrors the national age distribution (Figure 2). In 2005, the median age in Virginia—the age at which half the population is older and half younger—was 36 years (Cia & Murray-Krezan, 2006). During the same year, one quarter of the state's population was under the age of 18; however, this statistic ranges regionally. For example, the under 18 population is 21% in Southwest Virginia and 27 % in Northern Virginia. In 2005, 11.5% of Virginia's population was 65 years and older (Virginia demoGraphics, 2006).

Figure 1 Population estimates by health region (2006)



Gender

Fifty-one percent of Virginians are female and 49 % of Virginians are male (Census, 2006). The male to female ratio in Virginia varies by age, with the percentage of males gradually declining with age. In 2005, the proportion of men under 30 was roughly 51 %; however, by age 65, the proportion of men drops to 48 % and to an even lower proportion of 40 % by age 80. Logically then, in 2005, the majority – more than 80 % – of Virginia's seniors age 85 and older were women (Cai & Murray-Krezan, 2006). This trend can be seen in the shape of the population pyramid (Figure 2).

Race and Ethnicity

In 2006, the overwhelming majority of Virginians – about 71 % – report being White and approximately 20 % report being Black (Virginia Quickfacts, 2006). The Black population in Virginia has been reported to be around 20 % since the 1960s. At 4 %, Virginia’s Asian population ranks as seventh largest in the nation. Research from the Cooper Weldon Center (2006) indicates that the minority population in Virginia has changed significantly over the last thirty years. The most notable shift has occurred in the Hispanic population. The number of persons identifying as Hispanic in Virginia has grown from 1.0 % in 1970 to nearly 6 % in 2006. Interestingly, during that same thirty-five year time frame of 1970 to 2006, the White population decreased from 81 % to 71 % (Cai & Murray-Krezan, 2006). While these population trends make Virginia more diverse than it was a few decades ago, Virginia remains a mostly white state (Virginia demoGraphics, 2006).

Insurance

There are different estimates of the number of uninsured Virginians due to variations in methodology and sampling. In 2005, these estimates ranged from 8.9 to 15.5 % of non-elderly Virginians. Over 11% of adults aged 19 to 64 lack health insurance compared to just over 6% of all children 18 years and younger. Among all age groups, young adults aged 19 to 24 are uninsured at the highest rate (SPG,2005).

Income and Poverty

In 2005, the median household income was \$54,240. This is approximately \$8,000 higher than the national average of \$46,242. The median earnings for male and female full time, year-round

workers was \$46,196 and \$35,254, respectively, as compared to the median U.S. average of \$41,965 for men and \$32,168 for women. In terms of median household income, the Asian population was the most affluent (\$75,680) and Blacks were the least affluent group (\$37,310). Virginia has a relatively low poverty rate compared to the United States. In 2006, 10% of all households in Virginia were living in poverty, compared to 13% for the United States. Fifty-seven percent of the people living below poverty in Virginia were women and almost one-third were children (Census Bureau, 2006).

Educational Status

According to the 2006 American Community Survey, the most common level of educational attainment among persons 25 years and older was a high school diploma or its equivalent (26%). Thirty-three percent of persons 25 years or older had a bachelor’s, graduate or professional degree (Census, 2006). In 2006, median income for a person with a high school diploma or its equivalency was \$27,049. Median earnings nearly doubled for persons who attained a bachelor’s degree (\$50,380) (Census, 2006).

Geographic Mobility

In 2005, only half of the 7.5 million Virginia residents were born in Virginia. Of those remaining, 40 % were born in another state and ten percent were born in another country. According to the 2000 Census, about half (52%) of Virginia’s residents ages five years and older had lived in the same residence from 1995 to 2000. Among those moving to a different residence, about

one-fifth moved within the same locality, 14% moved to another locality within Virginia and 3% moved out of state. Nearly one-fifth had changed residences (Cai & Murray-Krezan, 2006).

Geographic Boundaries

Virginia’s diversity makes it difficult to define it as a largely urban or rural state. Because of the significant population growth in the northern and central regions, Virginia is often viewed as a largely urban state. However, despite Virginia’s significant ur-

Table 1 Race and ethnicity, Virginia and the United States (2006)				
RACE AND ETHNICITY	Virginia	% Virginia	United States	% United States
White alone	5,413,295	70.83	221,331,507	73.93
Black or African American alone	1,496,076	19.57	37,051,483	12.38
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	18,553	0.24	2,369,431	0.79
Asian alone	365,515	4.78	13,100,095	4.38
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	6,291	0.08	426,194	0.14
Some other race alone	197,995	2.59	19,007,129	6.35
Two or more races:				
Two races including Some other race	22,999	0.30	1,390,337	0.46
Two races excluding Some other race, and three or more races	122,160	1.60	4,722,309	1.58
Total	7,642,884	100.00	299,398,485	100.00
Not Hispanic or Latino	7,172,013	93.84	255,146,207	85.22
Hispanic or Latino	470,871	6.16	44,252,278	14.78
Total	7,642,884	100.00	299,398,485	100.00

ban growth, much of the geographic regions in Virginia are rural. For example, there are 48 rural localities which account for roughly 12% of the total population (Cai & Murray-Krezan, 2006). Federal and state programs that target rural communities, rural health professionals and rural providers have often developed program-specific definitions of what constitutes “rural.” This assures that programs address the needs of clearly defined target audiences but also leads to widely divergent definitions of what constitutes a rural area. In Virginia, for statistical and planning purposes, rural is defined as being a locality located outside of the defined metropolitan statistical areas (MSA). Figure 3 illustrates the categorization of rural and non-rural localities utilized by the VDH State Office of Rural Health and figure 4 shows the classification of MSAs.

Health Planning Geography

VDH utilizes several common geographic boundaries when analyzing HIV/AIDS or Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD) surveillance data. For health planning and various service delivery purposes, the state is divided into five Health Regions and 35 Health Districts (Figure 5). Districts can be comprised of a single city or a combination of cities and counties,

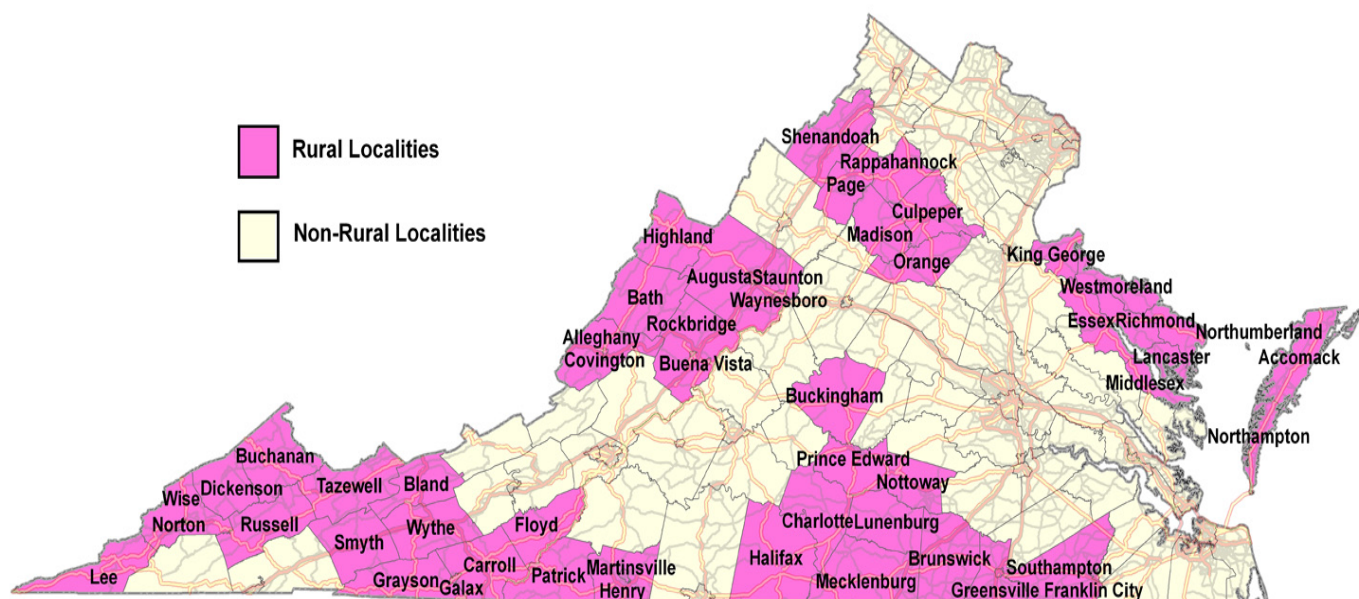
depending on population size. The Ryan White HIV/AIDS Treatment Modernization Act is the single largest federal program designed specifically for people with HIV/AIDS.

The Ryan White Program is comprised of several parts through which funds are provided across the country. Part A funds “eligible metropolitan areas” (EMAs), those with cumulative total of more than 2,000 reported AIDS cases over the most recent 5-year period, and “transitional grant areas” (TGAs), those with 1,000–1,999 reported AIDS cases over most recent 5-year period. Combined the EMA and TGA form Part A (Figure 6). Part B funds all 50 States as well as territories and Part C funds provision of early intervention services including comprehensive primary health care for people with HIV disease. Part D grants support services for women, infants, children & youth and Part F includes AIDS Education and Training Centers (AETCs), Minority AIDS Initiatives (MAI) and Special Projects of National Significance (SPNS). Organizations funded as Parts B, C, D and F are listed in Figure 6.

Finally, Virginia utilizes census tracts as health planning units. Census tracts are small, relatively permanent statistical subdivisions of a county or city and contain 2,500 to 8,000 people.

Figure 3

Virginia rural non-metropolitan areas as defined by the Office of Management and Budget
(January 2005)



*Source: Office of Management and Budget (OMB)

All counties/cities that are not designated as parts of Metropolitan Areas (MAs) are considered rural by the OMB.

The current list of MAs, issued in January 2005, is available on the Internet at

<http://www.census.gov/population/www/estimates/metrodef.html>

Figure 4

Virginia Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau
(May 2007)

Legend

- Blacksburg-Christiansburg-Radford, VA MSA
- Charlottesville, VA MSA
- Danville, VA MSA
- Harrisonburg, VA MSA
- Kingsport-Bristol-Bristol, TN-VA
- Lynchburg, VA MSA
- Richmond, VA MSA
- Roanoke, VA MSA
- Virginia Beach-Norfolk-Newport News, VA-NC MSA
- Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV MSA
- Winchester, VA-WV MSA
- Not within a MSA

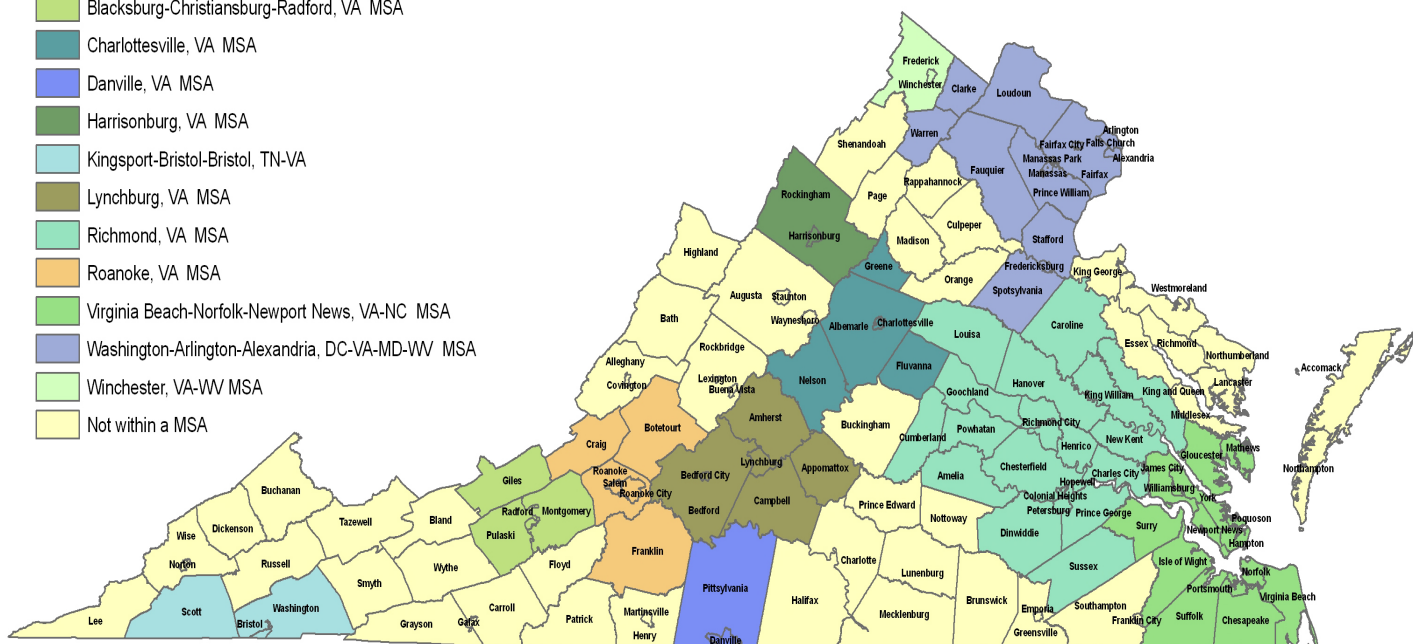


Figure 5

Virginia Health Regions and Health Districts
(May 2007)

1. Northwest Health Region

Northwest Health Districts

- CENTRAL SHENANDOAH
- LORD FAIRFAX
- RAPPAHANNOCK
- RAPPAHANNOCK/RAPIDAN
- THOMAS JEFFERSON

2. Northern Health Region

Northern Health Districts

- ALEXANDRIA
- ARLINGTON
- FAIRFAX
- LOUDOUN
- PRINCE WILLIAM

3. Southwest Health Region

Southwest Health Districts

- ALLEGHANY
- CENTRAL VIRGINIA
- CUMBERLAND PLATEAU
- LENOWISCO
- MOUNT ROGERS
- NEW RIVER
- PITTSYLVANIA/DANVILLE
- ROANOKE CITY
- WEST PIEDMONT

4. Central Health Region

Central Health Districts

- CHESTERFIELD
- CRATER
- HANOVER
- HENRICO
- PIEDMONT
- RICHMOND CITY
- SOUTHSIDE

5. Eastern Health Region

Eastern Health Districts

- CHESAPEAKE
- EASTERN SHORE
- HAMPTON
- NORFOLK
- PENINSULA
- PORTSMOUTH
- THREE RIVERS
- VIRGINIA BEACH
- WESTERN TIDEWATER

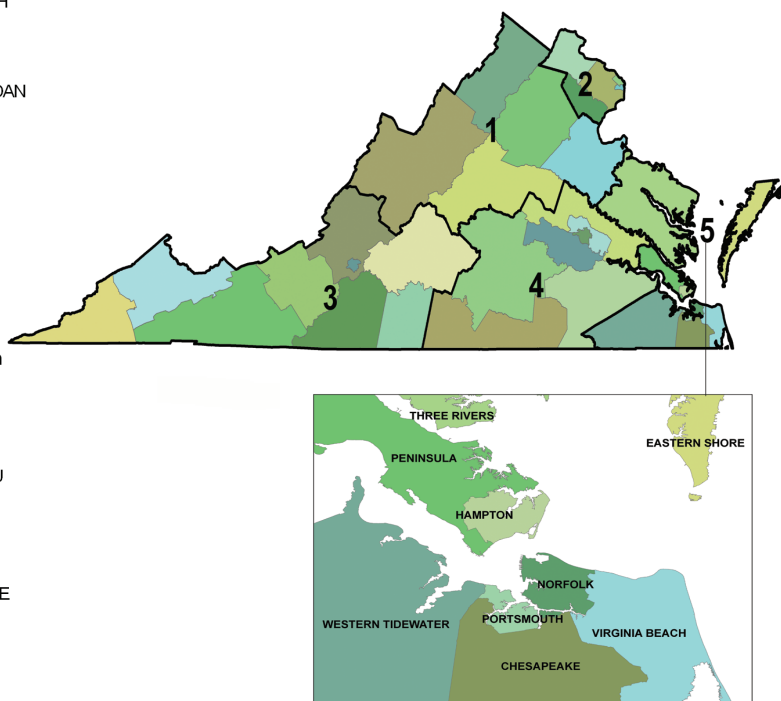
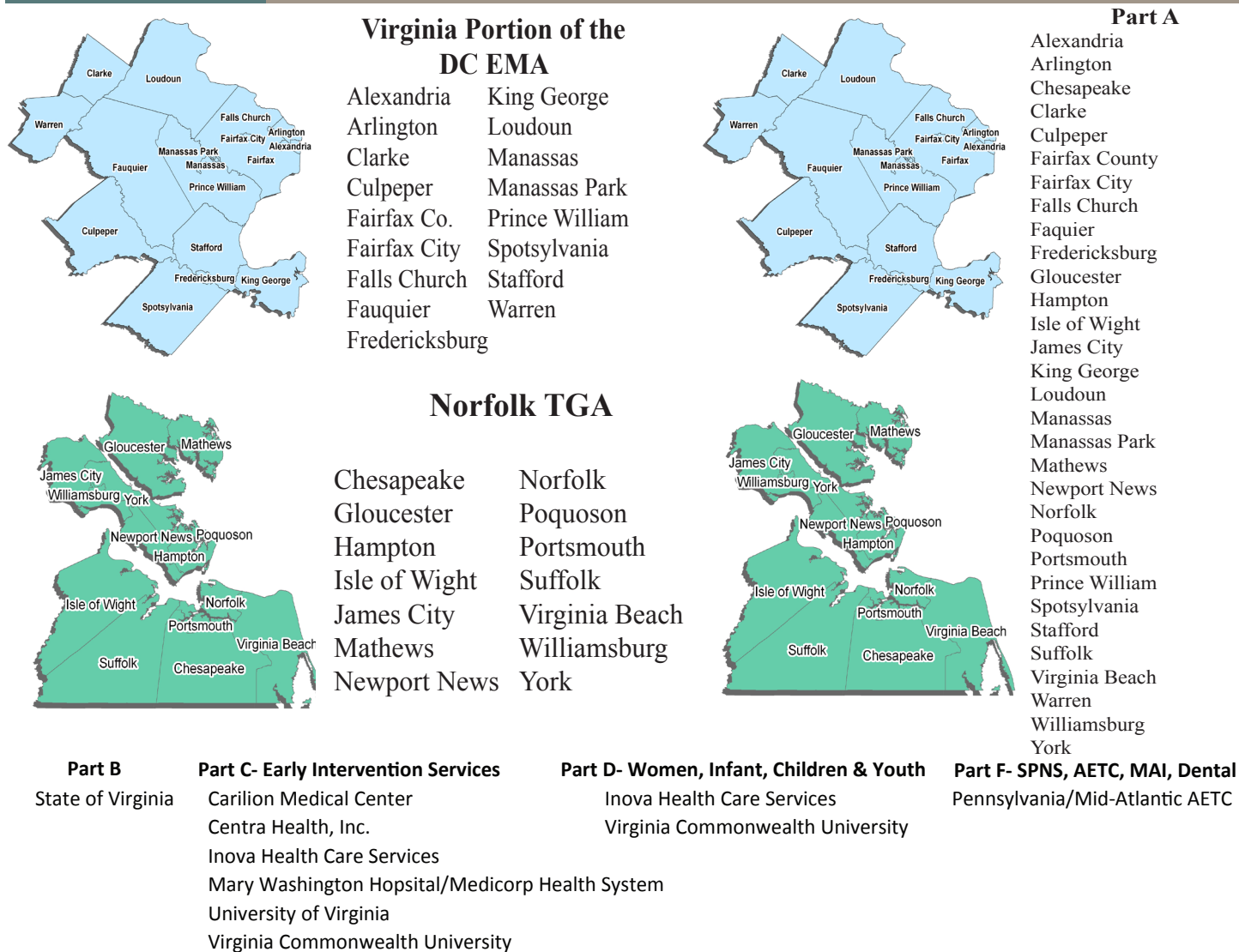


Figure 6

Virginia geographic boundaries commonly utilized for distribution of Ryan White funds
(2007)



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